

INTRODUCTION

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THE LAND AND ITS RESOURCES

Lithuania is situated on the southeastern shore of the Baltic Sea between 53°35' and 56°27' north latitude and between 20°57.5' and east longitude. The two other Baltic states, Latvia and Estonia, are farther north. 131●

The surface of Lithuania is for the most part level, with none of her hills measuring more than 767 feet (234 meters) above sea level. In size, the nation has less than six percent of the territory of Europe, its area being 21,489 square miles. This figure, however, does not include all the territory of ethnographic Lithuania, which is about 33,937 square miles, divided as follows: [133]

	SQ. MI.	SQ. KM.
Lithuania Major	20,389	52,820
Klaipeda (Memel) Territory	1,100	2,850
Lithuania up to March 22, 1939	21,489	55,670
Vilnius Region according to the Peace Treaty of July 12, 1920, with Russia	12,448	32,250
TOTAL	33,937	87,920

According to the Mutual Assistance Treaty between Lithuania and Soviet Russia, concluded October 10, 1939, part of the Vilnius region, about 2,569 square miles (6,656 square kilometers), was returned to Lithuania. However, all figures of economic activity used in this monograph refer to the territory of 21,489 square miles (55,670 square kilometers) that was under the sovereignty of Lithuania from January, 1923, to March 22, 1939. 648 131

Lithuania uses a larger percentage of its land for intensive agricultural purposes than its neighboring Baltic states. This may be seen from the comparative figures given in Table 4. 311.

THE LITHUANIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

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/3/The Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic is situated in the western part of the S.S.S.R.

The territory of the Lithuanian S.S.R. constitutes 65,200 square kilometers. In the south it borders on the Polish Democratic Republic. Inside the Soviet Union Lithuania's neighbors are: in the north, the Latvian S.S.R.; in the west and the southwest, the Kaliningrad Oblast', R.S.F.S.R. The northwestern part of the Lithuanian S.S.R. occupies the coast of the Baltic Sea.

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The surface of the Lithuanian lands presents a hilly plain, cut through by rows of elevations, lakes, swamps, and woods. There are up to 1,743 lakes in the country. The majority of these are situated in the south. The most cut-up section of the district is found in the seacoast province, which stretches from the southwest to the northeast. The elevations in the west reach from 175 to 200 meters. This is the so-called Zhemaitis* elevation, or the

*Editor's Note--Names which did not occur in English reference books available to me occur in a form transliterated from Russia and are marked with an asterisk.

Telshiai Mountains.

In the area of the lower Nemunas there is a valley that merges into a similar valley along the lower course of the Neris (Viliya) and the Nevezys rivers. A strip of valley from 20 to 25 kilometers wide extends along the Baltic seacoast which forms in the south the shallow Kurshiu Maros (Courland Spit). The landscape in the east and in the south of the Republic is extremely varied. "Hills beyond hills, and beyond those-little hillocks," thus the poet Baranaukas describes his native land. /4/ In Sarasay mountains and hillocks are surrounded by woods, and they look into the lakes as if admiring themselves. Dzukiya competes for beauty with the Sarasay country. The same hills and woods are scattered among fields and lake islands, like rich nosegays. Here is the largest number of lakes.

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Zhemaitya* (Zhmud*) is beautiful, with its forests, the largest in Lithuania, and its Shatriya* and Medvagalis* mountain, steeped in legends. Zhemaitiya* ends at the Baltic Sea, with the ports of Klaipeda and Shventoji, and with the sea resorts Palanga, Smelta, Yodkranta*, and Nida, which are known far beyond the Republic's frontiers. Palanga, with its pine woods and snow-white sand dunes is one of the finest resorts on the Baltic shore.

EP4 Lapps

Letts R84

Lithuanians R85

The History of Livonia.

to submit under the Protection of *Sigismund Augustus* King of Poland, who made Courland a Dukedom, and gave it to *Goddard Kettler* of *Nesselrath*, the last Master of the Teutonic Order in Livonia, to hold it as a Fief of the Crown of Poland. But *William* the youngest Son of this *Goddard*, who succeeded his elder Brother in the Government, was dispossessed of his Dominions by *Sigismund III.* King of Poland, and lived in Exile till 1619, when he was restored to the Dukedom, whose Posterity enjoy it to this Day.

The Poles also remain to this Day possess'd of some inconsiderable Places of the South side of the River *Dwina* or *Dune*, among which *Dunaburgh* is the only Place worth taking notice of.

The Dutchy of *Memel* is likewise a part of the Southern Livonia: Its Capital City bearing the same Name, is Situate upon, and encompass'd by, the River *Tanger*, which not far from thence exonerates it self into the Sea, in the Gulph call'd the Lake of Courland, and affords a very Commodious Harbour to this little but pleasant Town: Its Castle is very well Fortified; it was An. 1250. built by the Master of the Order of Livonia, and in 1328. sold by them to the Master of the Prussian Knights. In the Truce made in the Year 1635, betwixt the Poles and Swedes, it was Stipulated, that the said City and Dukedom should be surrendered to the Elector of Brandenburg, who ever since remains in possession of it.

C H A P. II.

Of the Antient Inhabitants of Livonia, and their Superstitions and Customs.

IT is beyond all dispute, that *Livonia* remain'd for a long time involved in the Darknes of Paganism and Idolatry, this Country being quite unknown in these Parts, till in the Year 1158, a Merchant Ship of *Bremen* (or as some will have it of *Lubeck*) being forced by a Tempest into the Gulph of *Riga*, made the first discovery

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